

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), but anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Japanese documents 10-297956, 11-29355, 11-29857, 2000-63171, each taken alone. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is noted in paragraph 4 of the Examiner's Office Action Letter that claims 2-4, although objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As the Examiner will note, original claims 1-4 have been canceled in the present application and replaced with newly added claims 5-7. Newly added claim 5 represents a combination of original claims 1 and 2. Newly added claim 6 represents a combination of original claims 1 and 3. Newly added claim 7 represents a combination of original claims 1 and 4. Thus, since allowable claims 2 – 4 have been rewritten as newly added claims 5-7, it is now believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

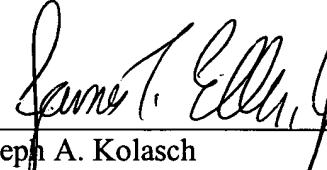
Application No.: 10/682,039

Docket No.: 0465-1063P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: June 13, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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